

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 /074 W

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R 040911Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9395

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: BA

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S DAILY ATTACK AGAINST TENG HSIAO-PING

REF: HONG KONG 2351

1. A MARCH 3 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE MEASURABLY ESCALATES THE DIRECT ATTACK AGAINST VICE PREMIER TENG HISAO-PING, FOR THE FIRST TIME NATIONALLY CALLS FOR MASS MOBILIZATION OF CRITICISM AND, ALSO FOR THE FIRST TIME GIVES A HINT IN NATIONAL MEDIA THAT THERE IS A GUIDING POLICY TO PACE THE ATTACK. TENG IS STILL NOT MENTIONED BY NAME, BUT WHEREAS PREVIOUS ARTICLES DEVOTED MOST OF THEIR WRATH TO CAPITALIST ROADERS, THIS PIECE REVERSES THE EMPHASIS AND SPENDS MOST OF ITS TIME CRITICIZING A SINGULAR CAPITALIST ROADER IDENTIFIABLE AS TENG (REFTEL). THE ATTACK IS IMPLICITY BROADENED BY ASSERTION THAT PEOPLE IN "HIGH PLACES"

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WERE HIS AGENTS. FUTHER, THE CRITICISM EFFORT, BEGINNING

WITH EDUCATION, IS CALLED A "GREAT STRATEGIC PLAN" OF CHAIRMAN MAO, WHICH IMPLIES A LONG-TERM OPPOSITION TO TENG EVEN BEFORE THE JANUARY 1 QUOTATIONS.

2. THE ARTICLE CONTAINS THE ASSERTION THAT TENG IS A BOURGEOIS DEMOCRAT, SEEMING TO IMPLY THAT HE IS NOT NOW, AND HAS NEVER BEEN, A COMMUNIST. IT ALSO TWICE STATES THAT TENG HAS "REFUSED TO CORRECT HIS MISTAKES." HOWEVER, AT THE END OF THE ARTICLE, WHEN IT APPEARS THE TENG'S OVERTHROW MAY BE CALLED FOR, THERE IS AN ASSERTION THAT TENG SHOULD BE GIVEN "ANOTHER HARD SLAP AND SEE HOW HE WILL BEHAVE IN THE FUTURE." THIS IMPLIES THAT TENG STILL HAS A CHANCE TO REPENT AND SHOULD MAKE HIS SELF-CRITICISM NOW. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH THIS INSTRUCTION DIRECTLY FOLLOWS A MAO CITATION TO "CURE THE SICKNESS TO SAVE THE PATIENT," THERE IS ALSO LANGUAGE THAT SUGGESTS TENG HAS ONLY FALSELY REPENTED IN THE PAST WHEN THE MASSES TRIED TO SAVE HIM. THIS IMPLIES A STRONG LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN ANY FUTURE TENG REPENTANCE.

3. THE ARTICLE OFFERS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF COMPROMISE AND BALANCING WHICH SUGGEST EDITORIAL CONTROVERSY PRESUMABLY TRACEABLE INTO THE PARTY CENTER. THE ARTICLE PICKS UP SEVERAL EVOCATIVE CULTURAL REVOLUTION QUOTATIONS INCLUDING MAO'S MAY 16, 1966 ATTACK WHICH PUTS THE ENEMY IN ALL SECTORS OF PARTY, STATE, AND PLA LEADERSHIP. MORE IMPRESSIVELY CALLING FOR A MASS MOBILIZATION OF CRITICISM, THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION SLOGAN: "NO MATTER HOW HIGH A POSITION HE IS IN OR HOW SENIOR HE IS, AS LONG AS HE PRACTICES REVISIONISM, WE SHOULD OVERTHROW HIM", IS PURPOSELY ALTERED TO SUBSTITUTE "CRITICIZE" FOR "OVERTHROW". (IN THE ORIGINAL CHINESE, IT IS EVEN MORE OBVIOUS THAT "OVERTHROW" BETTER FITS THE PHRASE BECAUSE IT COMPLETES A RHYME.) THUS, WHILE THE CAMPAIGN IS STEPPED UP THE REINS ARE STILL HELD TIGHTLY TO PREVENT DISRUPTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PROPAGANDA, POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK02515
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760082-0782
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760396/aaaadgld.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 HONG KONG 2351
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEOPLE'S DAILY ATTACK AGAINST TENG HSIAO-PING
TAGS: PINT, CH, PEOPLES DAILY, (TENG HSIAO-PING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006